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Penetanguishene's Kiera Wheller, 6, plays in the water within an inflatable float toy on Thursday, Sept. 3 at Rotary Park in Minden. Kiera was having fun at the park with her friend and her grandparents, who were visiting the area for the week./

DARREN LUM Staff

AH plans for fall colours traffic, despite tower closure

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

While the Dorset tower in Algonquin Highlands remains closed amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the township is still

preparing to control traffic as leaf-lookers make their way to the area to check out fall foliage in coming weeks.

The tower, a popular seasonal tourist site for the municipality, draws thousands upon thousands of visitors each fall to take in the seasonal colours. In recent years, the township has hired paid duty police officers as

well as a private firm to help control the large volumes of traffic, which are particularly problematic near the entranceway to the tower, as well as in the hamlet of Oxtongue Lake.

"The big difference this year is, as you're aware, the tower is closed and will remain closed through the fall colour season," parks,

see TOWNSHIP page 2

Dailloux pitches sale of Stanhope Airport

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

During a Sept. 3 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council, Councillor Jennifer Dailloux suggested the township consider selling the Stanhope Airport, or closing it, or ceding it to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

Council was discussing the airport, and the section of the property long-proposed to be developed into a business park, as part of a series of conversations about the municipality's strategic priorities.

"On the airport proper ... I sort of see the industrial park as being a sort of independent, strategic question from the daily operation of the airport and, this probably won't come as a surprise to any of you, because I have made these references in previous council meetings, I would like to encourage council to consider again, whether owning and maintaining an airport is in fact in the best interest of the taxpayers of Algonquin Highlands," said Dailloux, councillor for Ward 3, the area around and including Oxtongue Lake.

Dailloux questioned whether the continued operation of the airport, serving a small number of people, was a worthwhile investment

see COUNCIL page 3

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Township to pay for traffic control

from page 1

rec and trails manager Chris Card told councillors during an online meeting on Sept. 3. "However, I do anticipate that there is still going to be a significant amount of traffic and people are heading towards the tower, and potentially trying to get into the tower."

People have continued to enter the tower property this summer, despite it being closed.

"We have, throughout the tower closure with COVID, seen that road barricades and signage, people go around it, through it, over it, and still go in," Card said. "We've since installed a locking gate and door system on the tower structure itself, on the stairways, so once people are on the property, they can't get in."

He said he was concerned that during the weekends that are typically the busiest with fall colours traffic – the last couple of weekends of September and the first couple in October – regardless of what messaging the township might put out, that people would still be showing up, and traffic would still have to be managed.

"For the tower, I'm suggesting that we carry on with the traffic management plan, where we put paid duty OPP down at the highway on the weekends that we know to be busy," Card said, "And through the week, we monitor and staff it as needed."

"The second piece to this puzzle is the Oxtongue Lake area, where annually we're putting in road closures during several weekends for the fall colours," Card said. Oxtongue Lake experiences issues of traffic congestion and trespassing – including in some instances people urinating on private properties – during the fall colours weekends.

"So last year we very successfully implemented some staffing in those locations through a staffing agency at those closures on the October long weekend, on Thanksgiving, so I'd like to approach that the exact same way," Card said, "the only change there is adding some washrooms that would be available for those staff who are there."

Card had \$40,000 in his departmental budget allotted for fall colours traffic control at the tower, and a report indicated expected costs of approximately \$27,000 for paid duty police officers as well as outhouses for them to use. For Oxtongue Lake, \$3,700 had been budgeted, and a report indicated costs for two traffic controllers as well as outhouses to total approximately \$4,800.

Councillor Jennifer Dailloux, noting that Thanksgiving comes a bit later in October this year, wondered if most of the foliage was gone by that time, if the township will still be obligated to pay those costs.

"We're not locked in, so we could call them off, absolutely," Card said.



Arena nears completion

Left, the Minden hockey arena is nearing completion, expected to come mid-September. The \$12.75 million project was delayed for a month due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Below, workers install a window pane to the front entrance. /DARREN LUM Staff

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Council not on board for sale

from page 1

for taxpayers.

“For me, there are two types of return on investment for public money,” she said. “... For me, the simplest way of thinking about it is, there’s a return on investment in terms of public service, so what we’re offering, what we’re spending money on, is providing a good public service to a good chunk of the folks who are paying into that public pot. And the second return on investment would be revenues basis. So, another municipal airport . . . there are not many municipal airports that are in the black at the end of year, but in order to satisfy the decision to keep it, I would like to have thought that either it brings in revenue, for public coffers, or it serves a very specific public service purpose, and I don’t think that our airport does.”

“I appreciate there are a lot of people who use it,” Dailloux continued. “I’m not sure how many of the people who use it are tax-paying residents of Algonquin Highlands, or cottagers of Algonquin Highlands, or even the county, for that matter.”

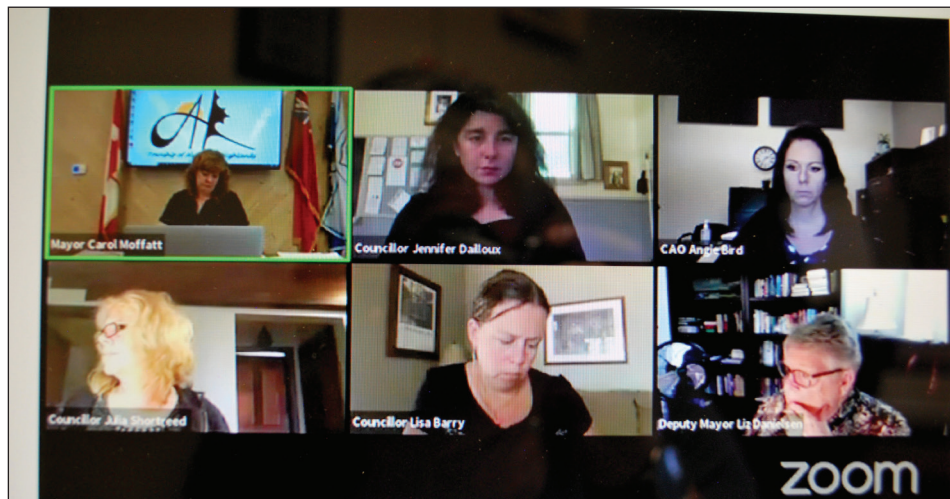
Dailloux pointed out the township has been putting away between \$160,000 and \$200,000 per year for the past few years into reserves for the development of the airport, and that more than \$700,000 currently sits in that reserve account.

“We’re also operating at a loss of about \$100,000 or more per year, or more over the last few years, of just the sheer maintenance and running of the airport,” she said. “And, I just don’t see how we can justify that, when so few Algonquin Highlands residents can make any use of that service at all.”

“So I would like to suggest that we consider all of the possible futures for the airport, including selling it, giving it to MNRF, closing it, whatever it might be, but not keeping it as a liability for our taxpayers,” Dailloux said.

There was little uptake on the idea from the rest of council.

“I hear loud and clear every word and where your thoughts come from, not that this is going to serve as any panacea, but \$100,000 is way better than it used to be,” said Mayor Carol Moffatt. “So I think, one of my concerns is ... I have always believed there is a



Algonquin Highlands council discussed the Stanhope Airport during a conversation about the township's strategic priorities during a Sept. 3 meeting. / CHAD INGRAM Staff

lot more that can be happening there, that just doesn’t, no pun intended, doesn’t get off the ground.”

“I think there needs to be more effort into exploring what those things are, including, up-to-date data that we can rely on to make some decisions, because we are relying on some outdated reports,” Moffatt said.

The last marketing study completed on the viability of a business park at the airport was done in 2013.

“I believe that as much effort as we’ve put in over the many, many years, I don’t believe that the best effort has been put in, for a variety of reasons,” Moffatt said. “... Everything is worthy of discussion, although I can’t say I would ever support closing the airport, but there’s lots of good conversation here to be continued.”

“It’s been unfortunate because we’ve acknowledged the need for marketing, for going out to other airports, for seeking opportunities and our airport managers have been tasked with that,” said Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen. “And it’s really unfortunate that we have had some bad luck with our airport managers that, you know, for one reason or another, they have not been able to take that on, and it’s allowed things to kind of slow down or slump and, you know, I think we need some rejuvenation there.”

The township is now on its third airport

manager since former manager Cam Loucks resigned in summer of 2018 to take a position elsewhere, recently hiring Steve Dewey for the job.

“MNRF would no more ever take our airport than fly to the moon,” Danielsen continued. “To get rid of the airport after all of the work and investment that’s gone into it, the input that we’ve had from so many of the public into this. But you used the argument about not making money. You tell me which one of our recreational facilities – some of our recreation programs make money – but, you know, we’ve got community halls that don’t make any money ... they just cost us money. There are all kinds of municipal services that do not give us a return on our investment, and yet they’re services that our public want, and they’re part of what we offer.”

“The airport is unique, there’s no question about that, and it’s a big one,” Danielsen said. “So I can see that it’s a challenge to someone who’s coming into it fresh. On the other hand, maybe it’s a good thing to have some fresh thoughts and ideas.”

This is Dailloux’s first term on council, Danielsen’s third.

“I struggle with where we’re at it with it, I just want to see it go in a positive direction somehow,” said Councillor Julia Shortreed, noting her father-in-law is a pilot and former Ward 1 councillor Don Shortreed.

Dailloux said she understood that most recreation facilities operate at a loss.

“The difference between recreation facilities like the Dorset Rec Centre, or [the Oxtongue Community Centre] or Stanhope [Firefighters’ Community Hall], is that they’re actually built for public use,” Dailloux said. “They’re built for everybody, no matter who they are, no matter what age they are, whether they own an airplane or not, to come in and to use the space, or come up with new ideas so that the space can be used more often. The airport is not that beast . . . It doesn’t have the potential of serving the public the way that a community centre does.”

“The options for growth without putting a massive amount of money in are very, very limited,” Dailloux continued, “and I would much prefer to see that \$600,000 or \$700,000 that we’ve got in reserves right now, go into our docks and landings reserve. I would much prefer because docks and landing has a real central part of our lives and our lifestyle here in cottage country, or towards North Shore Road, or towards any number of things that are core priorities for the greater number of people at the most reasonable cost.”

Moffatt noted that just because money has been set aside in the airport development reserve, doesn’t mean it couldn’t be moved elsewhere for other purposes.

“I know how hard I worked to get the MNR there and to make that \$13-million investment,” Moffatt said of the MNRF base located the airport, which opened in 2016.

During the 2010-2014 council term, Moffatt was able to have Building Canada Fund money that had been approved for an unpopular runway project advocated the previous council redirected to the MNRF project. Moffatt, as Ward 2 councillor, had been the lone member of the 2006-10 council to oppose the runway project, becoming mayor (the title was reeve at the time) in the 2010 election.

“It was a tremendous amount of work, and I would hate to see all that go by the wayside,” Moffatt said. “I know full well, I can hear the letters being written now, people saying, that Jen Dailloux, way to go, and other people saying, that Jen Dailloux, that’s awful, and the public certainly has a lot to say about the airport, and always has,” Moffatt said.

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference, and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM, unless otherwise noted.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule:

September 10 – Committee of the Whole Meeting

September 24 – Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in December.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link, available on the township website at www.minden hills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the meeting notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.minden hills.ca/council/.

Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

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MH pitches in on Bob Lake consultation costs

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

The Township of Minden Hills will provide up to \$5,000 to the Bob Lake Association for legal consulting costs regarding a proposal for a new boat launch on the lake.

The boat launch at Bob Lake was mistakenly advertised by Minden Hills township as a public launch for years. It was only when the property owner barricaded the launch property in the summer of 2015 that it became evident to the community the launch had always been privately owned.

Residents of the lake have been seeking a

solution since.

During an Aug. 31 meeting, councillors received a letter from the Bob Lake Association requesting the township cover approximately \$10,000 for legal consultation costs for a proposed boat launch at the end of Claude Brown Road.

Councillor agreed the township would cover up to half that amount, and no more.

"They figure it's about \$10,000, if I were to make a recommendation, it would be that we would pay up to 50 per cent, up to \$5,000, to move this from a perspective of good will, to move this to the next level," said Councillor Bob Carter.

Other members of council agreed with Carter's suggestion, with Councillor Jean

Neville making it clear she would not support the township paying the construction costs for a launch.

"I'm certainly not in favour of the municipality footing a \$300,000 bill to serve a few boaters on Bob Lake," Neville said.

"I'm willing to split the cost with them to take it to the next level," said Mayor Brent Devolin of the legal consultation costs.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said she also agreed on splitting the legal costs, but also noted that the township would have to take into account residents of Claude Brown Road were a proposal to move forward. Schell said she didn't want to anger residents of the road in the act of appeasing residents of Bob Lake.

"I'm willing to put the \$5,000 out to get the

information and once and for all put this to bed, one way or the other," Schell said.

“

I'm willing to split the cost with them to take it to the next level.

— MAYOR BRENT DEVOLIN

”

Minden business asks customers not to wear masks

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

A sign advising customers not to wear masks when in the store is posted at a Minden business that also faced substantial public criticism in March for declaring the coronavirus a hoax.

"No masks permitted in this store," reads the sign, according to Amandha Vollmer at YumNaturals Emporium. "There is no COVID. Your body makes particles when you are healing. They are not contagious. Time to wake up and end tyranny. Turn off the mainstream lies. The only virus is in your mind."

The business, then called Yummy Mummy Emporium & Apothecary, garnered attention

after a COVID-19-related post was made to its Facebook page in March, calling the disease a hoax and encouraging social gathering at its Bobcaygeon Road location at a time when the province had locked down due to a global pandemic.

Business owner Amandha Vollmer posted a photo of the sign on her store door to her social media account on Aug. 30.

At press time, Vollmer had not responded to questions submitted via email by the *Minden Times*.

A mask mandate was issued by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit beginning July 13. The instructions issued by chief medical officer Dr. Lynn Noseworthy required commercial establishments operating during Stage 2 of the

province's reopening plan to have policies in place to stop people from entering establishments without non-medical masks or face coverings. That requirement has continued into Stage 3. Exemptions for mask-wearing within commercial establishments include children under two, those with developmental disabilities who refuse to wear a mask, people who are incapacitated or unable to remove a mask without assistance or for other religious or medical reasons.

The health unit would not speak to actions of a particular business, but responded with information on how the health unit addresses complaints they receive about businesses.

"When a complaint about a business is received by the health unit, our staff will contact the business, advise them a complaint has been received and provide them with education and information about the mask directive from the health unit," said Chandra Tremblay, spokesperson for the health unit. "Our staff will do this for the first three complaints received, and then the complaint is referred to our Environmental Health (EH) staff for enforcement."

EH staff then determine if the business is one that the health unit will follow up with or if it is to be forwarded to the local OPP or municipal police based on an inter-agency agreement. A public health inspector conducts onsite visits and discussions if is-

sues are seen to those businesses the health unit would follow up with. Fines of \$750 for failure to comply with a health unit order could be issued, as well as an additional ticket for \$1,000 can be levied for obstruction. Continued non-compliance can lead to a summons for the person to appear in court where a judge can issue a fine, as well as significantly greater fines.

As of Sept. 8, there were no current confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County, with 15 prior cases including one that led to hospitalization deemed resolved, but in the health unit region there have been 33 deaths related to COVID-19 and 229 confirmed cases of the virus, while as of Sept. 8 according to CBC there are about 1,527 active cases of the virus in the province. According to the John Hopkins University of Medicine Coronavirus Resource Centre 27,431,255 cases and 894,306 deaths in 188 countries/regions have been recorded globally as of Sept. 8. Anti-mask protests across the world have been increasing since March, as masks have been mandated by health organizations and governments.

According to Tremblay, those concerned that a local business is not implementing the health unit's mask directive correctly can email the health unit at covid19@hkpr.on.ca or call 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5020.



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AH passes fireworks bylaw

by CHAD INGRAM
Times Staff

Algonquin Highlands council passed a new fireworks bylaw for the township during a Sept. 3 meeting, that bylaw relegating the use of fireworks to certain holidays, banning the sale and use of flying lanterns, and imposing fines of \$300 to \$500 for violation of the bylaw.

The bylaw relegates the setting off of fireworks to New Year's Eve, the Victoria Day weekend, Canada Day, as well as the weekend either preceding or following Canada Day, depending on where during the week Canada Day falls; the Civic Holiday weekend and the Labour Day long weekend. With the exception of New Year's Eve, the permissible time for the setting off of fireworks is between 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. On New Year's Eve, fireworks may be set off between 8 p.m. and 1 a.m.

The bylaw is similar to ones in place in other townships in the county.

The use or sale of flying lanterns comes with a \$500 fine. Setting off fireworks outside specified days or times will come with a \$300 fine. The fine for setting off fireworks during a fire ban is \$500, and the fine for having display fireworks set off without a permit is \$500.

Residents will be able to apply to the township for a permit to set off fireworks displays on special occasions.

The fine for a vendor refusing to post notice of the regulations is also \$500.

"We'll need to make sure that the local businesses that sell fireworks are aware of our decision," said Mayor Carol Moffatt.



Day at the beach

Above, friends Jeunelle Beaudoin-MacDonald, 7, and Kiera Wheller, 6, play in the water on Thursday, Sept. 3 at Rotary Park in Minden. The girls were with Kiera's grandparents, who were visiting the area for the week.

Left, Penetanguishene's Jeunelle Beaudoin-MacDonald, 7, swims in the Gull River. /DARREN LUM Staff

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InOtherWords
Columns and Letters to the Editor



DAVID ZILSTRA,
Publisher and Ad Director,
david.zilstra@gmail.com

JENN WATT, Managing Editor,
jenn@haliburtonpress.com

JENNIFER MCEATHRON, Admin
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

DEBBIE COMER, Circulation,
debbie@haliburtonpress.com

CHAD INGRAM, Reporter,
chad@haliburtonpress.com

DARREN LUM, Reporter,
darren@haliburtonpress.com

SUE TIFFIN, Reporter
sue@haliburtonpress.com

KAREN LONDON,
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
• 705-286-1288 • Fax 705-286-4768
Published by White Pine Media Corp

LAURA CHOWZUN,
Production

STACEY POTATIVO,
Production

LAURA SMITH, Sales,
laura@haliburtonpress.com

PAUL BANELOPOULOS, Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

PAT LEWIS, Inside Sales
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

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On the airport

THE HISTORY of the Stanhope Airport is long and complicated and the question of what to do, or not do, with the property has been an ongoing one for a series of municipal councils.

During a meeting last week, Councillor Jennifer Dailloux made a pitch to her colleagues that Algonquin Highlands township sell or close the airport.

She noted she was talking about the airport proper, and considers what the township might do with the section of the property designated for development of a business park as a separate, strategic decision.

“I would like to suggest that we consider all of the possible futures for the airport, including selling it, giving it to MNRF, closing it, whatever it might be, but not keeping it as a liability for our taxpayers,” Dailloux said.

Dailloux noted that the airport runs at an annual deficit of approximately \$100,000 and that, unlike recreational facilities, for example, it serves only a small number of people – namely, those who own airplanes – as opposed to the wider, general public.

These things are true, and are good points.

There was not much uptake from Dailloux’s colleagues, but for good reason.

Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen talked about how there are hopes the airport may one day become a more widely used community

hub, a facility not just solely for aviators. It is certainly a unique asset in the county. Danielsen noted, importantly, that outside the airport, Algonquin Highlands is fairly devoid of any space suitable for considerable commercial development. Algonquin Highlands has half of the downtown of the hamlet of Dorset within its borders. Outside of that, with Carnarvon located in the Township of Minden Hills, the municipality really has

no urban area; no town, no obvious place for the congregated development of commercial activity. The airport is basically it.

That said, particularly with the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated economic recession, likely to

stretch on for years, it’s unlikely many will be lining up to start businesses in Stanhope in the near future. Mayor Carol Moffatt has said a number of times she believes people are trying to save businesses, not start new ones, amid the backdrop of the pandemic.

Moffatt has also noted that the community is changing – that is, more people are moving here to live on a year-round basis.

And that’s the conundrum of the Stanhope Airport. Perhaps the most complicated aspect of the airport is that its true value lies not in its current use, but in its future potential, in the ways that it might serve the community in 50 or 100 years from now.



CHAD INGRAM
Reporter



Backyard visitor /KAREN LONDON Staff

Gauging progress

LAST WEEK, I bought a 20 gauge over and under shotgun. I did not actually need another shotgun, but it has been a while and I wanted to make sure that my firearms licence was still doing what it was supposed to do. Also, I have never owned a 20 gauge over and under.

Even so the purchase caused Jenn to ask the question that non-shooting and hunting partners often ask, “Why on earth do you need another shotgun?”

The part answer is, “The heart wants what the heart wants.”

While certainly true, this is a dangerous answer because it also opens the floodgates, since your partner’s heart probably has a whole bunch of wants too – such as the want to see you mow the lawn, organize the shed or clean the basement.

That is why I opted to try a different approach. I told her I bought it because it was better for the environment.

I know. Brilliant right?

After all, in this day and age, there is no way that anyone could be upset by a person who is spending money on something that is good for the environment.

Of course, you cannot just say something is good for the environment – you need to make up several reasons why.

So, I explained to Jenn that I have always hunted grouse and other upland game with a 12 gauge – and have regretted it because it is not nearly as environmentally friendly as a 20 gauge.

At this point, it helps to turn away, wipe your eyes and sniffle a bit.

Then I smiled and pointed out that a 20 gauge is a smaller gun that uses less raw materials. Furthermore, I told her a 12 gauge shell holds more shot than a 20 gauge shell of equal length. Which means when I am

shooting a 20 gauge I am putting fewer pellets into the environment. Which, frankly, is commendable.

As if that were not enough, I explained my 12 gauges are all pump-action guns – so they hold three shells. Meanwhile my over and under only holds two – which makes it a further win for the environment.

Lastly, I told her a 20 gauge does not make as much noise as a 12 gauge, so I also checked off the boxes when it came to addressing noise pollution concerns. And that, in a nutshell is why I told her I bought the shotgun.

That is to say it was not out of personal need but rather out of an overriding concern for the planet we all share. You’re welcome.

Yes, the over and under was also an expensive shotgun, but that’s because I have always believed that when it comes to the environment, you should always put your money where your mouth is.

Don’t get me wrong. This explanation didn’t fool anybody, especially Jenn, who is far smarter than me.

But, it did something even better. It confirmed her suspicions that it is sometimes better not to ask questions like “Why on earth do you need another shotgun?”

And sometimes that’s enough. In this case, it was not though.

Jenn asked what the real reason for buying it was.

So I said, “Sometimes the heart wants what the heart wants.”

She appreciated my honesty too.

So now I have this sweet little shotgun. Which I will shoot right after I mow the lawn, organize the shed or clean the basement.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Misinformation: The cancer among us

IT WAS A pleasant late summer day. A perfect day for some relaxing recreation, so a buddy and I hopped on ATVs and headed off to Sherborne Lake, one of the county's most beautiful areas.

The lake's sand beach at the end of the Sherborne access road is a relaxing place to sit, stare out over the sun-kissed water and think.

On the beach were two fellows who had just disembarked, beers in hand, from a pickup truck. We exchanged greetings and chatted about the beauty of the place.

One of the guys turned the conversation to the greatness of America and how Donald Trump had made it even greater. Americans now were enjoying tax cuts, the flood of Chinese products had been stopped and even Canada had been put in its place with a new North America trade agreement.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

I felt sick to my stomach and said I had to leave because there were a lot of trees I had to see before the afternoon faded.

It wasn't the reference to Trump that turned my stomach. Americans can elect or not elect whoever they wish. It's their country, not mine.

What turned my stomach was that nothing the guy (a Canadian from southern Ontario) said was based on fact. It was yet another example of misinformation passed along by someone who had not bothered to get properly informed.

Organized misinformation and disinformation campaigns, plus individual lying, have hit epidemic proportions in our society.

"Forget allergy season – it's heightened lying season," celebrity life coach Lauren Zander is quoted in the June issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine.

She's not kidding. Snopes, the fact-checking website, reports record-breaking traffic this year. During the period from late February to late March the site had 37 million visitors, a 43 per cent increase from the previous month.

Some of that increase can be tied to the confusion caused by the politicization of the COVID-19 pandemic. When it comes to their health, people want clear-cut facts, which they have not been getting during this pandemic.

But COVID-19 is not the only reason why Snopes and other fact-checkers are getting more business than they can handle. Lying is becoming a major part of 21st century living.

Experts who study lying say the number of lies told by the average person has been increasing. One study early this year said the average person tells 1.65 lies per day.

In its May issue, *Forbes* magazine had an article by a professor whose research found that U.S. President Donald Trump told an average of 23.2 lies each day.

Serious lying has become a significant tool for politicians and their parties. That was evident in the 2016 U.S. election and the United Kingdom Brexit votes and elections around the same time.

So evident that the *Oxford Dictionary* chose "post-truth" as its 2016 word of the year. Post-truth is an adjective denoting the effectiveness of appeals to emotions and personal beliefs while ignoring the actual facts.

Assisting the spread of false or inaccurate information is the decline of professional news media jobs. The Canadian Media Guild has estimated that 10,000 media jobs have been lost in recent years, many of them newsroom jobs in which reporters and editors work to deliver factual stories.

The Pew Research Centre reports that in U.S. newsrooms employment dropped 23 per cent between 2008 and 2019.

Also, various research indicates that more than one-half of people get their "news" from social media sites such as YouTube, Twitter and Facebook. Yet, most of the "news" on social media is at best unprofessional without fact checking or, at worst, pure gossip or deliberate misinformation.

The good news is that more people are becoming aware of the cancerous spread of misinformation and the danger it presents to democracies. One group of concerned folks has formed a movement promoting the Pro-Truth Pledge which asks politicians, government officials and people at large to commit to truth-oriented behaviour and to protect facts and civility in debates.

Each one of us must do what we can to stop the misinformation epidemic. We need to speak out when we see and hear politicians, government officials, advertisers – even friends – distorting the truth.

Truth builds bonds that make a society great. Untruths break those bonds.

Not all grains are created equal

THERE ARE three factors that greatly contribute to our health: exercise, sleep and nutrition. Sometimes when we've been doing the wrong thing for a long time we don't realize how lousy we are feeling. When we stop doing that particular thing we notice a huge difference. I have experienced that recently when it comes to eating wheat. More specifically when I eat too much overly processed wheat.

As I've aged I've noticed that two things happen when I have too much refined flour. The first is that I will have a hot flash almost immediately after consuming something like plain crackers or a bun. The second is that the next day I am bloated.

At first I thought it was an overnight weight gain. It was like I had added five pounds right to my midsection. Yes, that's how my mind works. Then I started paying attention and I made the connection between refined flours and these weird reactions my body was exhibiting.

I don't believe I have a wheat intolerance

because when I eat food made from less processed wheat I am fine. For me, it's important to choose whole grains over refined grains. The difference between these two is:

- Whole grains are ground into flour while retaining all parts of the seed, making them a better source of fibre and nutrients.

- Refined grains are milled to have part of the seed removed so that they have a finer texture and longer shelf life.

As with every food in existence, the more that we process it the less benefit it has to our bodies. In a strange way I'm happy I've developed this reaction to foods that are high in calories and low in fibre and nutrients.

Our bodies know what is best for us. We just have to learn how to listen to them.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.



LAURIE SWEIG

Practical Fitness

Wellbeing and resilience program offered through mental health association

Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge announced the return of Living Life to the Full, an eight-week program designed to help participants maximize their ability to deal with life's challenges.

The program was created by Dr. Chris Williams, a psychiatrist and expert in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy.

Living Life to the Full teaches a range of life skills that are based on the tried and trusted CBT approach, to aim to improve wellbeing and resilience as individuals go through the journey of life.

"Our goal with this program is to help attendees sleep better, feel happier, have more energy, gain confidence and improve their relationships," says Jack Veitch, manager of community engagement and education for CMHA HKPR.

"It sounds like a lot and it is. We believe

this program can have a major impact on people's lives, which is why we're so excited to offer it to our community."

The program is offered over the course of eight 90-minute sessions for a total of 12 hours. This year the Living Life to the Full will be provided virtually using Zoom.

"Throughout the pandemic, we've been adjusting our service delivery to best meet the needs of the community while maintaining the health and safety of all involved. We feel it's important to provide this opportunity without risking increased exposure for participants or staff," says Veitch.

The program runs 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesdays from Sept. 22 through Dec. 15. The cost is \$65 per person. To register, contact Kelley Curtis at 705-748-6687 extension 1016 or email kcurtis@cmhahkpr.ca.

Submitted

Book of the Month - September

Watermark by Christy-Ann Conlin



A stunning collection of stories by a brilliant East Coast writer, *Watermark* introduces us to an eclectic group of characters navigating the elemental forces of love, life, and death. An insomniac on Halifax's moonlit streets. A runaway bride. A young woman accused of a brutal murder. A man who must live in exile if he is to live at all. A woman coming to terms with her eccentric childhood in a cult on the Bay of Fundy shore.

A master of North Atlantic Gothic, Christy-Ann Conlin navigates our conflicting self-perceptions, especially in moments of crisis. She illuminates the personality of land and ocean, charts the pull of the past on the present, and reveals the wildness inside each of us. These stories offer a gallery of both gritty and lyrical portraits, each unmasking the myth and mystery of the everyday. One of this year's Evergreen nominees, *Watermark* is available

from Haliburton County Public Library.

Class sizes unlikely to shrink, despite fewer pupils in schools

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

Trillium Lakelands District School Board has “collapsed” some classrooms, combining classrooms – including two different grades – to ensure required class size averages are met to receive government funding.

Cathy Abraham, president of the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association, has been speaking to media about the scenario playing out at public schools across the province.

“We are aware of situations in the province where classes are being collapsed,” she told *The Canadian Press*. “If they’re being collapsed it is because of a need to fulfill ministry directives and parents should check with their school boards if they have concerns about their own children’s class size.”

While some local parents were under the impression that lower student numbers at school, caused by 15 per cent of students across the TLDSB opting to study at home, would result in fewer students in the classroom, Abraham told *The Canadian Press* last week that class sizes would remain the same because of school boards needing to adhere to funding agreements with the Ontario government.

“I understand why people are kind of surprised to be hearing about this,” she said. “I get why parents and teachers alike are anxious about not knowing for sure what’s going to happen. It is very challenging and this is what keeps trustees and directors of education and superintendents and principals up at night.”

Collapsed and combined classes have become a contentious point of conversation, with NDP education critic Marit

Stiles speaking out about the practice. “I feel bad for families who thought maybe if they kept their kids home that would make it easier for others to have smaller class sizes because that has never been part of the plan,” she said.

Premier Doug Ford said last week that boards could be collapsing classes, but that he was not aware of it happening.

TLDSB spokesperson Sinead Fegan said classrooms have been consolidated to be within the required class size averages. “Yes, classes have been consolidated to be within the required averages,” Fegan told the *Times*. “Government funding to school boards is based on schools being staffed to the required averages, which are junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, 26, primary 20, junior/intermediate, 24.4. There are also provisions within the regulations, which permit exceeding these numbers in 10 per cent of classes across the board.” She added: “This is happening because some parents have selected to register their students for at home learning, so classes are based off of enrolment numbers of students who have identified that they are returning to school. We are unable to have classes run that do not fit within the guidelines, as we are not funded by the Ministry of Education for small classes.”

Split grade classes, in which typically two grades combine with one teacher, are not uncommon. Last year at Archie Stouffer Elementary School, outside of junior/senior kindergarten classes, there were five split grade classrooms. This year, there are nine, according to a post on ASES social media: a K/1 class, a 1/2 class, a 2/3 class, a 4/5 class, two 5/6 classes, a 6/7 class and two 7/8

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No teachers have lost jobs, and in fact, multiple additional positions have been posted across the system.

— SINEAD FEGAN

”

classes.

“In some cases split grade classes exist,” said Fegan. “Many split grade classes existed prior to COVID-19, so this is a typical practice to blend grades to comply with class size requirements.”

She added: “It is likely that some classrooms in our schools are empty, and in some classes split grade classes do exist.”

Fegan said as of Sept. 4, TLDSB did not currently have the number for class sizes – lowest number of students in a class or highest number – “as it is changing on a daily basis, as some families change their learning choice.” She noted however that TLDSB is adhering to their collective agreements and the class size guidelines as provided by the Ministry of Education.

“Our in-school class size averages are actually lower than before COVID,” she said.

In regards to parent expectations that classrooms should have 15 per cent fewer students as a result of 15 per cent of TLDSB students not attending class in person, she said: “This is incorrect. While schools may have an

overall reduction in students attending class, reorganization keeps the board in compliance with the class size averages set out in the regulations.”

According to TLDSB, local teachers have not lost jobs, another concern of local parents.

“No teachers have lost jobs, and in fact, multiple additional positions have been posted across the system,” said Fegan. “The first priority to move staff to the Learn @ Home [virtual] school was to ensure staff with medical accommodations were able to work in this environment. Following the placement of accommodated staff, we followed our process for dealing with staff surplus to a building, which is first to ask for volunteers to work in the Learn @ Home school, and then to transfer staff with the lowest seniority in the school.”

Staggered starts will take place at elementary schools across the county this week, with high school students returning next week. Students enrolled in virtual school are expected to hear more details about a start that has previously been announced as being Sept. 18.



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Application Deadline: Sept. 18



Canadian Mental Health Association
Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge
Mental health for all

School trustees work to maintain safe practice as schools reopen

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Bruce Reain, Trillium Lakelands District School Board board chairperson, said school trustees knew back in March, as soon as physical distancing was recommended and school closures were announced, that they were in for a different kind of year.

"This year has inevitably been more stressful than last year for everyone, trustees included," said Reain. "We have been listening to constituents' concerns and fielding more questions regarding issues around the pandemic. Our role became busier at the onset of the pandemic and hasn't changed from the time we were hearing, along with all Ontarians, from the medical officers of health and health experts that we were in for some unprecedented times because of the COVID-19 virus."

The school board trustees have experience as long-time public school educators, municipal councillors, parent council members and involved community members, and many have had children graduate through TLDSB schools or have grandchildren who are attending school. School trustees are locally-elected representatives who act as community advocates for public education.

"There has never been a period in modern history when we, as parents, educators, or now in the role of trustee, have ever faced such an unparalleled time," said Reain. "This is a first for everyone and has presented many challenges for us as a society, not just a school board."

At school board meetings, trustees have questioned how seating arrangements are being made, what measures would be in place to keep high school attendants attentive as they focus on one course, drop-off and parking space considerations if families opt out of busing, how possible changes to ventilation and filtration systems are being planned for, and have insisted on making decisions that support families who might be struggling financially.

"The concerns and questions are similar over our catchment area and, from what I have heard from other school board chairs and the director, the big question is the same throughout the province," said Reain. "Parents and staff are concerned about 'whether we can maintain safe practice within our schools in the face of the pandemic.'"

At an Aug. 25 board meeting, TLDSB board trustees passed a motion for students in kindergarten through Grade 3 to wear masks in class and on the bus, extending provincial requirements announced earlier that month by the Ministry of Education that made it mandatory for students in Grade 4 to 12 to wear masks upon returning to schools in Ontario during the pandemic. During the discussion of that motion they noted they had received numerous calls from staff and parents expressing their concern that mask use in lower grades would only be encouraged rather than mandated. The decision was one that was contentious for some parents, ap-

“

[This pandemic] has presented many challenges for us as a society, not just a school board.

— BRUCE REAIN

”

preciated by others.

"With every decision made there will be some who agree and some who disagree," said Reain. "The decision for younger students to wear face coverings is no different. Throughout the board we heard more feedback from parents and staff before the decision was made requesting us to mandate masks for younger students than we had to the contrary."

Reain notes that everyone is adapting to major changes within their lives due to the pandemic.

"Our director and senior administration have been working tirelessly, along with our principals, to develop a plan for the safe transition back to school including making regular changes to follow constant and continual directives being received on a daily/weekly basis from the Ministry of Education/provincial government," he said. "Trustees have been kept informed, however, the operational transactions within a school board is the responsibility of the director and his team; trustees oversee the policies of the board. Many times, school boards and directors are hearing what the government is planning at the same time the public hears – when Premier Ford and/or Minister Lecce holds a news conference and/or issues a media release with directives and plans affecting return to school protocols."

Ahead of the first week back to school for elementary students, Reain was cautiously optimistic.

"Like everyone in the province, we are hoping for a safe return to school in September during this unprecedented and challenging time," he said. "We have put in place safe protocols recommended by our local medical officers of health for students, teachers and staff to follow. Parents and staff have been issued 'Return to School' guidelines and staff have had three full days of professional development regarding return to school protocols developed by the Ministry of Education and medical health experts. We have to feel optimistic however, like everyone, when dealing with a new situation that we have never faced, there is always an element of uncertainty."

The next meeting of the TLDSB board is planned for Sept. 8. Meetings are broadcast via audio online as they happen and can be accessed at www.tldsb.ca/board/board-meetings/.

Reopening schools safely matters to everyone

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- **Face coverings** will be required for staff and students in Grades 4-12.
- **Hand hygiene** will be enabled with hand sanitizer and hand washing.
- **More nurses** will be in schools.
- **School cleaning** will be enhanced.



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Event lifts
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Sally Moore enjoys the company of those who attended the fundraiser, A Humourous, Cutting Edge, Spirit Lifting Extravaganza on Thursday, Sept. 3 at the Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast in Minden Hills. Co-owner of the bed and breakfast, Moore, who is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer, wanted to lift her spirits and raise money for the Rotary Club of Minden with an event, which observed COVID-19 safety protocols. People were encouraged to wear hats that would help Moore visualize hat options for the time before her hair grows back. /DARREN LUM Staff



It was masks, hats, good conversation and a few laughs at the fundraiser, A Humourous, Cutting Edge, Spirit Lifting Extravaganza on Thursday, Sept. 3 at the Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast in Minden Hills.



Rick Ratcliff comes close to flicking the ball in "Sally's emptying the pocket game" at the fundraiser

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Answers on page 12

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Jeanne Anthon dumps her change, contributing to the fundraiser.



Carolynn Coburn holds down her First World War era aviator head gear, which was her uncle's, to take a drink.



Sally Moore laughs as she enjoys the fun and games at the fundraising event devised to lift her spirits and raise money for the Minden Rotary Club.

	<p><i>Outdoor</i> MOVIE NIGHTS</p>	
<p>JURASSIC PARK</p> <p>Friday September 11th</p>	<p>Minden Hills Cultural Centre (on grass) 8:00pm</p> <p>Bring a blanket, or chair, and snacks! Admission is by donation</p> <p><u>Please Note:</u> Pre registration is required for this event at eweiss@mindenhills.ca</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p><i>All public health regulations and procedures will be followed closely and groups of attendees will be physically spaced out to ensure a safe and enjoyable event.</i></p>	<p>PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN</p> <p>Friday September 18th</p>

Sunflowers grow for a good cause

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

Back in April when Easton Clement, then in junior kindergarten, was learning at home, his teachers Jessica Foulds and Amber Card taught his class about growing seeds and watching plants grow. That lesson grew into a passion for gardening and a loving donation of \$120 to the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy for five-year-old Easton.

“One of the activities for online school was a seed journal,” said Easton’s mom, Amanda. “Other than our daffodils in the gardens, nothing was growing. When I decided to plant a veggie garden, I asked what he wanted to grow and his first thing was sunflowers. So we started them inside in an egg carton so he could see them growing.”

Easton and Amanda experimented with the flowers, trying to grow a few in sand, and planting the rest in their garden.

“We got them out in the garden and they grew to be 11 feet tall,” said Amanda. “There’s probably close to 100 blooms on these five plants, so I keep cutting them, bringing them in the house because they’re so pretty.”

Amanda said the growth of the plants was remarkable, and as they grew, she began capturing the changes in the plants



Easton Clement grew sunflowers this year, documenting their growth with photos, before selling them roadside with some proceeds benefitting the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy. /Submitted photo

with photos of Easton in front of them. “We kept documenting every week because they just seemed to grow so huge,” said Amanda. “Our grandmother



Easton Clement stands with the sunflowers he grew this year, their height delighting the five-year-old gardener. /Submitted photo



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2013

last year planted [a different variety] and each stalk had one flower on the top, and it was a really big sunflower. These ones grew really huge but there’s actually only five sunflowers growing - five plants in the garden and each plant has probably 30 blooms on it. We couldn’t believe how many actual flowers grew on one plant. It was kind of remarkable how they grew so big.”

Toward the end of summer, Amanda asked Easton if he might want to sell some of the flowers, donating some of the money earned to a cause of his choice. After some research, Easton – who loves animals – chose the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy.

“Since he’s so into turtles, reptiles and animals in general, rehabilitating animals, he liked that idea,” said Amanda.

At the end of August, Easton sold sunflowers for \$3 each, with \$1 from those sales going toward the charity. Family and friends – even someone passing by on a motorcycle – stopped by at his roadside stall set up on grandparents Kirk and Carolyn Bull’s property, with many people donating a few extra dollars toward his efforts, resulting in a \$120 donation to the conservancy.

“We’ve had fun with it,” said Amanda. “He’s enjoying going out and doing things in the garden with me, so it’s been good. It was a good learning experience to learn to give away a little bit instead of keeping it all for himself, and he’s definitely enjoying watching these things grow – so am I.”

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

Annie Coltman: healing with art and creativity

by SUE TIFFIN
Times Staff

When Annie Coltman takes an interest in something, it leads to joy and delight from others. But there's more to it than that, for Coltman.

"It goes way back with me," she said. "It's part of my journey of healing. I've had a lot of tragedy within my life, so to me, I always found that through the trials and tribulations of what life deals us, I've always found my art and passion for creating has always helped guide me through life, and to help other people."

Coltman moved out of her parents' home when she was just 14. At 28, she had just started her nursing career when she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. At first she had strep throat, but then found she was getting weaker and weaker. Soon she developed a feeling of wearing a tight sock on one leg, a burning in the back of her neck, and felt like someone had plugged into her and sucked her energy out.

"Back then, they didn't know at first what was wrong," she said. "I had a lot of issues going on, different things, sensations, I was very fatigued, I went fast."

Coltman went through several tests, including a lumbar puncture and MRI of the head and spine.

"Then they diagnosed me with MS," she said. "It took four months for the results. It was a long wait. From there it was like, OK Annie, you've got this."

It was about nine months from start to finish, getting her energy back, getting her strength back, and Coltman didn't look back, moving forward rather than dwelling on "what ifs."

Then at 36 years old, she learned a half-sister she didn't know about had been looking for her for 14 years, and from that, something she had never known: she was adopted.

"When I found out at 36 years old, it derailed me," she said. "It really derailed me. I was lost for very many days. I got that news in a very good environment with my husband and my family, my children and my in-laws. They helped keep me grounded but my world just crumbled. As time went on, I lost my identity. I didn't know who I was anymore. My mom wasn't my mom and my dad wasn't my dad."

Coltman decided to meet her half-sister many months later, in an attempt to help her process the life-changing information.

Her sister, Darlene, had been raised by their birth mother.

"My birth mother was unwed," said Coltman. "She got pregnant with me and, back in the '60s you couldn't be unwed with a baby on the way, so she had to give me up and didn't have the means to keep me."

Later, her mother married a man – her sister's father.

"When our mother met Darlene's father, she told him of me, that she had had a baby and had to give it up," said Coltman. "Well, he wanted to go get me."

Together the pair went to the orphanage to inquire about Coltman, who had been there for two years, but just missed her after her adoption went through.

At one point, Darlene asked Coltman if she had the little yellow dress.

"Well, that's going to be the name of the book, if I could ever write a book about it," laughs Coltman.

Her adopted mother had given her the dress years after she had moved out.



Annie Coltman poses last year with one of her giant pumpkins - this one weighed in at 411 pounds, and wasn't the biggest. Coltman has an eye for unique projects. /Submitted photo

"It's the only thing I ever had of home," said Coltman. "I hung on to that dress."

Through Darlene, she learned that her birth mother had purchased that dress for her before bringing her to the orphanage.

"When she said, can I see the dress? Of course she was just crying," said Coltman. "I put my girls in that as well. I have pictures with my girls in the same little yellow dress. It was a connection through all – from my birth mother to my adopted mother giving it to me, to my sister knowing about it."

Looking for further answers, she began searching for her birth father, for whom she didn't have a name.

"I wasn't going to give up," she said. "Whether he was dead, alive, or whatever, I needed to know, for closure of who I am," she said. "I didn't even know if he knew about me, I knew nothing."

Eventually Coltman learned that her birth father had been in a tragic car accident around the same time that she was born, when he was 25, and had known nothing about her – that her mother was pregnant, that she was put up for adoption. She was about a year old when he had the accident that affected his short-term memory and began living in a Belleville brain institute, where she has met him and where he has lived for 50 years, now with a photo of his daughter and her horse by his side.

"It was another piece of the puzzle," she said.

Coltman said she has found strength in creating through her art and gardening, to turn her own pain into happiness and a safe place to be.

"I just find that everything I do has always come out through creating, or making happy places, happy environments," she said.

For many years, her incredible flower beds drew people in.

"When I wasn't nursing I was in my flower beds, or I was painting," said Coltman. "Gardening was my passion. I was always creating things within the garden – I would bring things in my garden to life."

This passion, paired with profound creativity and natural artistic skill, brought Gnomeland to life, a magical world on Coltman's property where flagstone pathways led to trees in doors and waterfalls flowed; full-size reindeer made of plywood

that delighted passersby as they drove past her house, and decorative gourds that Coltman collected from an Amish farm in Pennsylvania and carved, woodburned and painted.

"I love it all, and I can't get enough of it," she said.

Through trial and error, she's learned how to preserve turkey feathers and fungus, painting intricate scenes of seasons changing and realistic hummingbirds.

"I just have this thing of bringing things to life," she said.

Coltman said that growing giant vegetables has brought along a fascinating growth within herself, too.

Her first attempt was two years ago, when she purchased giant pumpkin seeds from TSC.

"That is something different, and I've always liked different things," she said. "Well, I can grow a giant pumpkin, can't I?" She was less than enthused with the outcome of the pumpkins, which turned out to be big, but not as big as she had hoped.

Then she got up the nerve to stop in at Phil's in Cameron, because she was intrigued with the giant pumpkin he had on display. As a result, he mentored her last year, guiding her along and inviting her to join the GVGO – Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario. Her pumpkins ended up growing to be about 600 pounds, earning her 15th place in a contest in Port Elgin. "That was an experience in itself," she said. "I thought, here I was the only nutbar in my

backyard trying to grow a giant pumpkin, but boy, when you get down there you realize it's quite a sport. It's a real big hobby."

Coltman said she got talking to the other growers, and was delighted to find connections: "You go, wow, these are my people!"

Now, she's growing giant beets, giant tomatoes and giant pumpkins, all documented on her Coltman's Creations Facebook page.

"Now, this year, I was hoping to meet 1,000 pounds," she said. "I don't think it's going to meet that, because of all the humidity this year. We were talking and we figured, maybe we could still get close to a 500 or 600 pound pumpkin, which is OK for me. I'm still setting my goals. You can never give up."

Coltman said she loves putting a smile on others' faces with her unique look at life. "You always hear of the negativity, the bad," she said. "I'm not out for a pity party. It doesn't matter what life gives you, what it offers you. It doesn't mean it's always going to be doom and gloom and it doesn't mean it's always going to be negative. You need to find some positive as to, why is this happening? Why did this happen?"

With the love of her family, through the relationships she's made with her horses, and through her gardening, imaginative creations and storytelling, Coltman has found strength and healing.

"It'll never stop," she said. "I was born to create and I'll always create. I just love it."

To learn more about Coltman's Creations, visit facebook.com/ColtmansCreations.



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Kilby treats family to backyard Kinmount Fair

by **SUE TIFFIN**
Times Staff

Lynne Kilby’s family hasn’t missed a Kinmount Fair since her family moved to the area in 1986, and she wasn’t going to let a pandemic change that. Though the fair, which would have celebrated its 150th year this past Labour Day weekend, was cancelled this year, Lynne recreated the annual event in her backyard to continue the tradition for her kids and grandkids.

“We even drag our trailers across town every year on the Tuesday before Labour Day for a camping staycation, so when we found out it was cancelled this year, my mum came up with the idea of having a ‘fake Kinmount Fair’ in her backyard,” said Lynne’s daughter, Robynne.

Lynne is well-known locally as being an active volunteer in the community.

“[She] must miss putting her talents to use the last six months because she really outdid herself and thought of everything,” said Robynne.

Grandma’s version of Kinmount Fair included parking signs, a ticket booth, a creative variety of carnival games complete with prizes, an exhibit hall for the kids’ crafts, a talent show, a tattoo booth and fortune teller – even a bouncy castle. Lynne purchased a cotton candy machine and served up classic favourite fair food including poutine, pulled pork, beef on a bun and corn on the cob. The heritage display included jerseys, ribbon prizes, and a brochure featuring Robynne when she was 1999-2000 Fair Queen. A dog agility



Lynne Kilby’s backyard Kinmount Fair welcomed her kids and grandkids to enjoy their family’s annual tradition despite the pandemic./Submitted photo

course allowed for the family dogs to compete, while a Fair Ambassador Conference – instead of a competition – had each of the grandkids telling their favourite thing about the Kinmount Fair before being adorned with a handmade sash.

“Even though it’s obviously not the same, it feels [like] a little slice of normal and it’s very refreshing,” said Robynne.



Kilby created a backyard fair experience that included a ticket booth, creative carnival games with prizes, fair food and a bouncy castle. /Submitted photo



Lynne Kilby greets her kids and grandkids from the ticket booth in her backyard, set up to recreate a Kinmount Fair experience despite the annual event’s cancellation this year.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES: MARKING THE END OF WWII

Remembering VE Day

On May 8, 1945, the lights of London were lit for the first time since the beginning of the blitz. For one woman, a member of the Canadian Women’s Army Corps, it was a sight she would never forget.

by ANDREW MILNE
From the archives

To mark the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, we are republishing some of the stories printed for the 50th anniversary marking the important milestone. This story was published in the Minden Times on May 8, 1995.

“We just stood around in amazement and watched as different ones lit up.”

Fern Donnelly was in London, England on May 8, 1945, the day the lights came on again after years of blackout – the day the war in Europe ended. Seeing the city lit up for the first time is her most striking memory, she says. A member of the Canadian Women’s Army Corps, Donnelly had come to London in 1943, and had never seen the city’s lights before that day.

It was 50 years ago today, and VE (Victory in Europe) Day is now one of the touchstones of history for the generation that lived through it. They remember where they were when they first heard it was over. They remember celebrations that stretched for hours and days. They remember euphoria, elation and profound relief.

To even imagine how much relief, one would have to imagine what Donnelly had lived through for the previous two years. As well as the stress of worrying about relatives and friends closer to the front lines in Europe, Donnelly, the office she worked in, the house she lived in, and the whole of London had been under siege from the air for some time.

Donnelly remembers the air raids – the buzz bombs, the V2s. What was especially alarming about the buzz bombs, says Donnelly, was that you could hear them coming but you could never tell where they were going to land.

She remembers close calls with the bombs, too. “We had a couple within our building,” she says. “The minute the sirens went we had to go to the basement. One bomb landed a couple of blocks from us, and threw three or four of us across the floor, which was kind of interesting.”

“We carried helmets,” she muses, “which was funny. We carried lunch, lipstick, and everything else in them. Couldn’t see what good they would have done.”

But Donnelly says her experience in London was only all the terror of air raids. She was young, and just getting overseas had been an adventure. Yes, when the planes were over-



Fern Donnelly, left, and friends celebrate the war’s end. Approximately 45,000 Canadians died in the war in Europe. Canadians were asked to honk their horns for two minutes at noon on the 50th anniversary of the war in 1995. /From the Times archives

head, she says, you felt fear. But even that you got used to.

The blackout, she says, was an inconvenience as much as anything, just something else to get used to. “You knew where the station was – the subway station,” she says. “You’d take your little flashlight if you thought you needed it.”

The funny thing is, she says, as with a lot of things, it isn’t the bad things she seems to remember.

“You remember the good and the funny things. When we’re all together for a reunion or something,” she says. “We think, well, it wasn’t all fun, but we don’t remember the bad things, except, I think, the homesickness, especially at Easter and Christmas. At Christmas I’m sure we wore out 25 records of *I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas*. It was the only one we played.”

Naturally, she remembers VE Day, vividly – Donnelly was with the crowds that surged into Piccadilly Circus, Leicester

Square, Trafalgar Square, Whitehall, and up to the main gate of Buckingham Palace, waiting to hear the official word that hostilities had ceased. She went to the service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, and watched as the royal family greeted the crowd from their balcony afterwards.

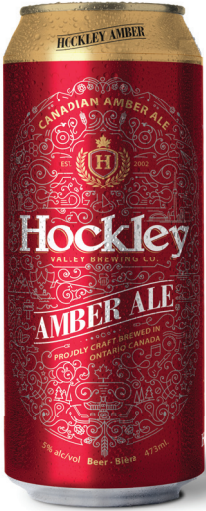
Seeing Big Ben lit up, and the flags and banners in Pall Mall by night, she says, was a gorgeous sight, entirely unforgettable.

In reflection, says Donnelly, it is hard to know what to say to younger generations, who did not live through the war. “We were just there,” she says, “and you never thought. I was 20 when I went. Most of the people I knew were in the same age bracket. Now things happen to kids much younger.”

She says that she and those with her had wanted to believe the Second World War really would be the war to end all wars. She’s not sure what to think now, faced with the reality that it so clearly was not.

“When our ex-CWACs meet to remember,” she says, “we give thanks to God that we are able to come together, and pray that our children and those of the world might know peace.”

“When our ex–CWACs meet to remember, we give thanks to God that we are able to come together, and pray that our children and those of the world might know peace.”
— FERN DONNELLY



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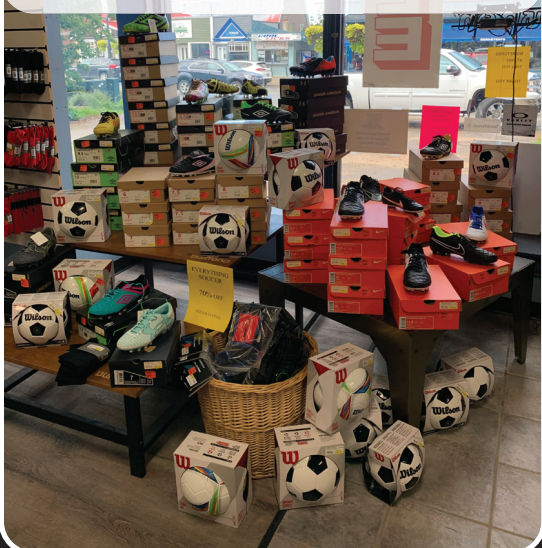


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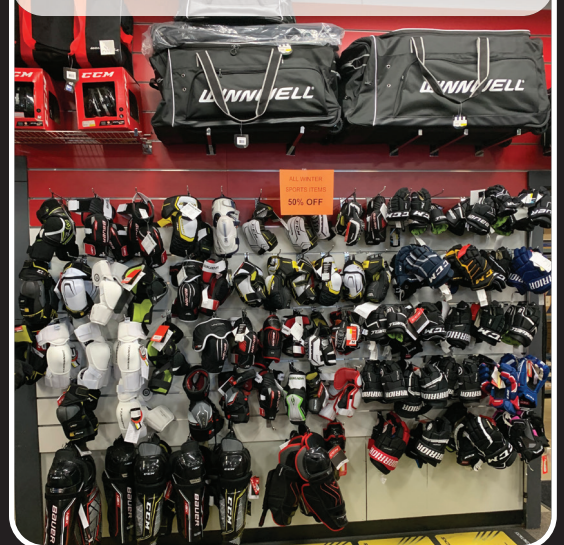
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Minden Times

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BIG NEWS



HALIBURTON COUNTY SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
Annual General Meeting
Saturday, September 12th at 11 a.m.
At the HCSA Shop, 171 Mallard Road, Haliburton, in the Industrial Park.
We will recap our financials, trail grant funded projects, grooming performance, other business, and elect a new Board of Directors. Expressions of interest as an HCSA Volunteer or HCSA Director would be welcome.
COVID-19 and social distancing protocols are in place.
Wearing a mask is mandatory.
For further information, contact: info@hcsa.ca.
Everyone welcome

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Brenda McArthur &
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from year to year
And friends from day to day

*Our thoughts go wandering,
When daylight fades.
To the land of long ago.
And memory paints the scenes of old,
In the gold of the twilight glow.
We seem to see in the soft dim light,
The faces we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
Goes down in the far off west.*

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and families

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Monday, August 30, 1999 Number 1903



Shelby Perrin flashes a broad cowgirl grin as she enjoys a spin on the merry-go-round during the Haliburton County Fall Fair.

EIC pleased with school board's progress

by Ariel White

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board has received passing grades, over the first term of its operation, from the Education Improvement Commission. The provincial body assessed the school board in June to determine whether the board has made a smooth transition from three separate school boards to one unified body.

The Education Improvement Commission has been travelling throughout the province for several months, appraising the new school boards' progress. Each assessment is compre-

hensive, and includes interviews with teachers, board employees, students and parents, as well as a lengthy report and presentation by the board and directors of education.

The EIC looked favourably on the early work of the Trillium Lakeland school board to harmonize its business and education practices. One of the board's earliest mandates was to ensure that as many programs as possible were available to students in all three districts.

"I had a good feeling about it when we made the presentation (to the

(more on page 4)

Chamber gets boost \$46,500 from county

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce pitch for \$46,500 in marketing funding from the county met with County Council's approval.

Chamber president Brian Kernohan and Marketing Committee chair Dennis Casey approached council, last Wednesday asking for funding for eight projects ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,500.

"We need to focus on winter season marketing," Kernohan told council. He noted that there is virtually no accommodation available during several weeks in the summer.

"The world is going by this county and it's going to take a lot of money to keep up," Casey insisted. The areas where the Chamber will be concentrating its efforts, thanks to the funding provided by the county, include:

Nordic skiing

The Chamber received \$4,000 to enter a \$60,000 project with other partners to market the nordic ski trails in Haliburton County.

"The trails here are second to none," Kernohan said. "If we can get the people up here, they'll come back. We have superior facilities."

It was noted that nearly three-quarters of a million people in Ontario are nordic skiers.

Maple syrup

A proposal to market the local maple syrup industry received council's approval for the expenditure of \$3,000. The money will be used to help promote the spring MapleFest event in partnership with maple syrup producers and other local businesses that wish to participate in the spring tour of facilities. Funds would be spent on printed matter to be handed out at winter and spring shows, website and radio promotion.

Fins and Skins

The Chamber asked for \$4,000 for its share of a partnership with TSN and two local businesses to produce a half-hour program for a series entitled "Fins and Skins Worldwide Inc." The

local segment would showcase fishing and golf in the Highlands. It was pointed out that fishing and golf are the top two participation sports in North America.

The series would run from January to December 2000.

The Chamber would have access to the local segment for promotional purposes.

Algonquin/Victoria partnership

The Chamber will use the \$7,000 county council approved for the Algonquin Park and Victoria County partnership to market "The Centre in Central Ontario" theme along the Highway 35 corridor and the southern entrance into Algonquin Park. The goal is to help promote the new businesses that are starting to develop in that area.

Business development and enhancement

The Chamber plans to develop partnerships with businesses both inside and outside Haliburton County to provide seminars and educational opportunities to the business community. Among the opportunities would be financial skills, marketing for export, management skill seminars and the provision of areas to get information that small to medium businesses require.

Council approved \$3,500 for the purpose.

Year 2000 promotions

A total of \$14,000 will be required to participate in MET publication through the new Partners in Tourism program. The group provides exposure through events guides and the Ontario Discovery Guide. Although this partnership will require \$14,000, the Chamber asked for only \$10,500, which was approved.

Economic development

A request for \$8,500 to attend a minimum of three trade shows or economic forums and to produce a promo-

(more on page 4)

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Dean Michel*
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- Walkout to deck and spacious yard
- Excellent opportunity to live in town



Adele Barry
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Portage Lake \$799,000

- Newly Built waterfront executive home
- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, nicely finished
- Open concept main rooms, large screened room
- Peaceful natural setting with great fishing



NEW LISTING



Drew Bishop**
Kristin Bishop*
457-2128 x23

Eagle Lake \$799,900

- Point lot with exception privacy
- Panoramic views of the lake & Sir Sams
- Open concept main floor with walkout
- 3+2 bedrooms and 2 baths



NEW LISTING



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Boettcher**
457-5968

Kushog Lake \$879,000

- 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom vintage log cabin
- 132 ft of waterfront on 4 acres
- West facing gorgeous sunsets
- Clean rock shelf shore + sand beach



Andy Campbell
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Gloria
Carnochan*
754-1932

West Shore Rd Kennis Lk \$279,000

- 72 ac of Forest/ Trails, also trail 2 bucksin
- Portage 2 Redline Lk. for canoe routes
- Snowmobiling, ATVing, bike, horse riding



SOLD



Mark Denny*
457-0473

Maple Lk Building Lot \$396,900

- 156 Ft Wtr Frtg, 1.63 Acr
- 3 Lk Chain, NW Exp, Level Lot
- Sandy & Shallow Shoreline



Tom Ecclestons*
286-2138 x 26

Sugar Island Gull Lake

- Totally renovated 4-bedroom 3 bath cottage
- 413 feet of frontage with sand beach
- Bonus Bunkie you have to see
- Main land parking, docking w/garage



SOLD



Lindsay
Elder*
457-5878

Carnarvon Home \$399,000

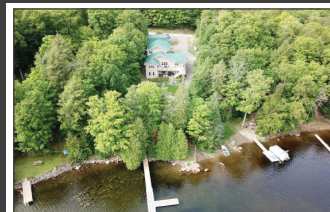
- Log home immaculately kept inside and out
- Spacious principle rooms, 2 bdrms, 2 baths
- Private location near two lake with beautiful gardens & decks



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 29

County Road 21 \$750,000

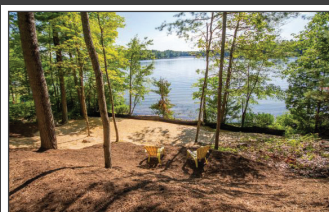
- Commercial property in Haliburton
- Prime corner location, 1.5 acres
- Rental house as an added feature
- Sale includes land, & building



Susanne James*
& Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 33

Miskwabi Lake \$949,900

- Over 4000 sq. ft home on 2-lake chain
- Double garage, log workshop and drive shed
- SW exposure, beautiful sand beach



David Lee*
286-2138 x 27

Gull Lake \$549,000

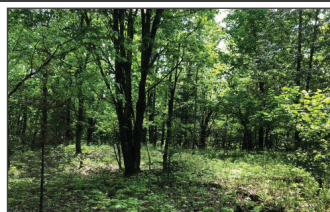
- Large private waterfront lot on a premium lakes
- 3.2 Acres, 240' of waterfrontage, level building site, hardpacked sand, shallow entry, cleaned and ready to build!



Donna
McCallum*
455-2054

Highway Commercial \$350,000

- 8-acre parcel with 1240' frontage on Cty Rd 21
- 10 minutes from Haliburton
- Opportunity to live in and to run a business.
- Sold "as is" - needs repair



Brandon
Nimigon*
457-2128 x 27

North Drive \$152,000

- Location! Location! Location!
- Building Lot backing onto Sir Sam's Ski Resort
- Nicely treed, choice of building sites, excellent privacy



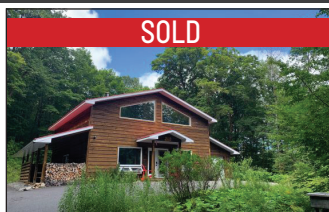
NEW LISTING



Karen Nimigon**
457-6505

Boshkung Lake \$645,000

- Privacy! Sunshine! 3 Lake Chain, 150' Shoreline
- Simply charming log cottage w/vaulted ceilings
- Open concept interior, wood floors, 3 Bedrooms



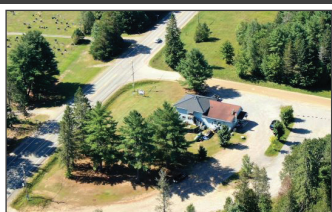
SOLD



Kirsten Rae*
286-2138 x 30

Soyers Lake Road \$479,900

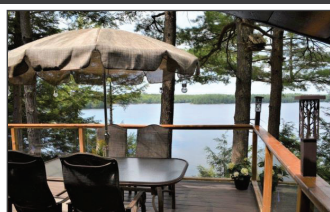
- 3.8 private acres close to Haliburton
- Open concept living space w/ vaulted ceilings
- Paved driveway, attached garage



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Gooderham \$399,999

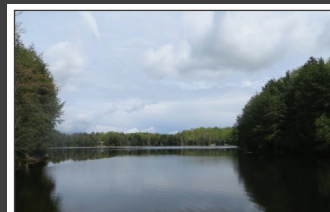
- Huge 3000 sq.ft. building
- With 2-bedroom apartment
- With multiple uses potential



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Kabakwa Lake \$995,000

- Beautiful western view
- 2000 sq ft, winterized
- High speed internet



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 28

West Lake Building Lot \$265,300

- Prime lot with a stunning view over the Lake
- Year-round township road, terrific building site
- Hydro & Bell are available at the lot line



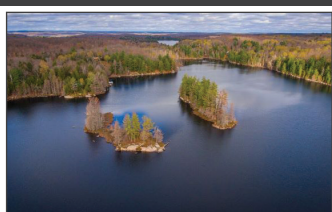
SOLD



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 32

Minden Area Bungalow \$389,000

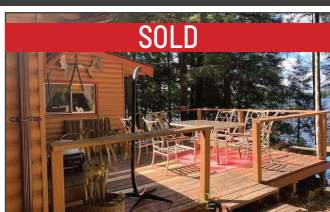
- 3 bdrm/2 bath Bungalow
- Cathedral Ceilings/Propane Fireplace
- Finished Walk-out Basement
- 1.1 Acres, Det'd Garage



Lindsay
Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 23

Bushwolf Lake \$1,345,000

- Over 750 acres of wilderness to explore
- Over 9000 feet of waterfront on Bushwolf Lake
- Your only limit is your own imagination



SOLD



Andrea Wilson**
457-2128 x 25

Kennis Lake \$465,000

- West-facing lot with expansive views & 102' of clean, deep rock shoreline
- 3 bdrm, 1 bath (3 pc) seasonal cottage situated on .52 acres

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